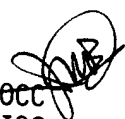


INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF

25 October 1982


✓ D/OCC
D/ICS

Attached FYI is an advance copy of John Butt's letter to the DCI on the merchant shipping intelligence issue. My memo of 4 October (ICS 82-3132) refers.



cc: D/OPBC
D/OP
Chm/IHC

STAT



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Subj: Merchant and Fishing Fleet Intelligence (U)

1. (C) As you may be aware, naval intelligence proposed a concept known as the Joint Maritime Information Element (JMIE) in 1976. The JMIE was conceived as a condominium of government departments and agencies who had interests in accessing a central data base containing worldwide all-flag merchant and fishing ship characteristics and movement data which is maintained at the Naval Ocean Surveillance Information Center (NOSIC) and the Naval Intelligence Support Center (NISC) located at Suitland, MD. The JMIE concept, although a good idea, was never implemented. In my view, lack of implementation resulted from two principle issues. First, the departments and agencies concerned, with few exceptions, had not yet fully developed their interests in having access to such a data base. Secondly, the Navy's proposal was probably perceived more as an effort to acquire additional resources and capabilities for the NOSIC rather than an effort to provide a highly desirable service to a government condominium of shared interests.
2. (C) In the intervening six years, there has been growing interest and increasingly closer relationships which have developed between the NOSIC and such agencies and departments as Energy (for petroleum transport), Transportation/Coast Guard and the Drug Enforcement Agency (for narcotics interdiction) and CIA (for arms shipments). Other non-DOD interests lie within MARAD, Commerce, Agriculture, Justice and State.
3. (C) Several ongoing events combine to make this a propitious moment to reexamine the mutual interests, requirements, capabilities and interrelationships of the various parties cited above. Both the NOSIC and elements of CIA are developing specifications for modernized ADP and perhaps interconnectivity. Energy and other departments have requirements for cargo data (not routinely processed in the NOSIC/NISC data bases) to support NEMESIS and other economic intelligence interests.
4. (C) Considering the background above, I recommend that all departments and agencies be brought together through the good offices of the Intelligence Community Staff for discussion of their overall current and projected merchant and fishing fleet interests. This effort would have the ultimate goal of allocating requirements and sharing responsibilities for collection management, processing and reporting on the merchant problem. Informal

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liaison with VADM Burkhalter's office indicates a willingness to support this effort. Subject to your concurrence, we will commence liaison with the IC Staff to pursue this important issue.

JOHN L. BUTTS
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy
Director of Naval Intelligence

Copy to:
CIA
DIA
COMNAVINTCOM
IC Staff (DD/OCC)

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